UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25711
3 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, in connection with the letters of the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations of 24 and 27 April 1993 (S/25662 and S/25672) addressed to you, I have the honour to point out the following.

The substance of these communications represents a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State Member of the United Nations.

The false and unwarranted accusations contained in the letters about the alleged "aggression of Serbia" and "explosive situation" in Kosovo and Metohija, came as no surprise to us since the Albanian authorities over a long period of time have been waging a campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which borders on hysteria. Its major goal is to further encourage secessionist and terrorist forces in Kosovo and Metohija, an integral part of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by provoking incidents in the border area thus generating an atmosphere of instability and anxiety in the region. The ultimate objective of such policies is the creation of "Greater Albania" which is to include parts of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its other neighbour States.

We categorically reject that the Republic of Serbia is being accused of "hostile acts and aggression" against Kosovo and Metohija and find it absolutely absurd that a sovereign State can be confronted with a charge of attacking its own territory. By stating that "the spill-over of the conflict is imminent", Albania is actually confirming its unscrupulous designs and territorial aspirations towards Kosovo and Metohija, which is historically the cradle of the Serbian State and Serbian nationhood. The threats of the Albanian authorities that they "will not remain indifferent", cannot be understood but as an open call to arms and interference in the affairs of a sovereign State. Precisely such policies and irresponsible statements on the part of the Republic of Albania contribute to the destabilizing of the situation in the Balkan region as a whole.

By insisting on "the ethnically Albanian character" of Kosovo and Metohija and "the undeniable integrity of the region", the Albanian authorities are

openly laying claims on the territory of a neighbour State, which can only be qualified as an attempt at annexation.

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia guarantees, in compliance with the international documents, the highest standards in the field of the protection of civil and human rights, including the rights of national minorities. All citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regardless of their national, religious or any other origin, are ensured full equality in the exercise of their rights. Members of national minorities, like all other citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, enjoy equal protection of life and personal and property security. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia are fully capable of maintaining peace and security in its entire territory, including Kosovo and Metohija. Only foreign interference and instigation of terrorist secessionist activities can bring about unrest and instability in the area.

The "concern" of Albania for the welfare of the Yugoslavs of Albanian origin in the past decade, which for years has had one of the worst human rights records in the world, is not a legitimate one but a front for supporting terrorists and separatists in Kosovo and Metohija. This policy of Albania and the support of some other countries in this respect constitutes a direct threat to the political stability of the region and adversely affects the ongoing attempts to resolve the existing tensions. In that connection, we most categorically reject Albania's unfounded insinuations on the need to deploy United Nations troops in Kosovo, as absurd and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with a view to destabilizing a sovereign and independent State. Regrettably, despite the change of the political system in Albania, interference and fuelling of secessionist aspirations, as well as border incidents, have continued.

Concerning the allegations contained in the letter of 27 April 1993 (S/25672), we would like to inform you of the three incidents which occurred at the Yugoslav-Albanian border on 25 and 27 April 1993.

The first incident took place on 25 April 1993 at 9 p.m. in the area of Prizren, near the border stone D-10/11. At approximately 250 metres from the border, in Yugoslav territory, the Yugoslav patrol intercepted five Albanian nationals who had illegally crossed the border. Having failed to heed the warnings, the intruders physically attacked the officers who confronted them. The five Albanians were killed in the ensuing conflict.

On the next day, the local Yugoslav-Albanian Joint Commission for Sector 5 conducted an on-the-spot investigation. Although the deceased were not in possession of any documents, with the assistance of the Albanian representatives, their identities have been established as follows: Mensur (Skender) Sula, Hisen (Aslan) Surli, Etem (Tot) Sula, Mersin (Hisen) Sula and Behar (Adem) Afizi, all from the Kuks county.

It was agreed that the bodies of the deceased be turned over to the Albanian authorities on 27 April 1993 at the Vrbnica border crossing.

The second incident took place on 25 April 1993 around 8.30 p.m. in the area of Djakovica, close to the C-2/10 border stone, 70 metres inside Yugoslav

territory. The Yugoslav border patrol came across two unidentified persons. Since they ignored the warnings, the patrol opened fire, killing one and taking the other person in custody. The next day, the Local Joint Commission for Border Incidents, following an investigation, established the identity of the deceased as Dermisi (Adem) Astri, age 20. The detainee's name was Dermici (Hadzi) Fatmir. It was agreed that the body of the deceased and the detainee be handed over to the Albanian authorities at the Cafa Prusit border crossing.

The third incident took place on 27 April 1993 at 1.30 a.m. in the area of Djakovica, in the vicinity of the C-11/6 border stone. Two persons, so far unidentified, were killed after confrontation with the Yugoslav border patrol. One of them is believed to be an Albanian and the other a Yugoslav national.

In all those incidents, the Yugoslav patrols strictly adhered to the rules of engagement for the border law enforcement officers.

The Albanian Government has taken advantage of those unfortunate incidents to heighten the tensions in the region. We would like once again to point out that those incidents occurred as a consequence of Albania's failure to honour its international commitments to guard its borders through pre-emptive action and thus prevent illegal crossing of its nationals to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and consequently avoid such tragic incidents.

Regrettably, the Albanian side has not been responsive to the appeals and warnings from the Yugoslav side so that illegal crossings and border incidents with tragic consequences have continued to occur.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wishes to emphasize, this time again, that the Albanian side should fulfil its commitments undertaken under bilateral agreements and honour international standards which regulate State border regime by taking all necessary measures with a view to preventing its citizens from illegally crossing into the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

We are confident that safety on the border can be promoted and the border incidents eliminated or limited as much as possible, which would be mutually beneficial for Yugoslav-Albanian relations, as well as for the entire region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.